

*BEST COPY  
Available*

11 May 1951

**MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH AND REPORTS**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Program for Research into Slave Labor in the Soviet Union and the Soviet Satellites**

1. Confirming our telephone conversation of this morning, I understand that you will pursue further with Mr. Jackson and with Mr. Park Armstrong's office (Messrs. Ruggles and Block) the matter of a CIA contribution of funds and materials and information to the proposed State Department research program above mentioned. This matter came to our attention as the result of its having been raised by Mr. Armstrong's office (Mr. Block) at the 26 May meeting of the Psychological Coordinating Board.

2. The State Department considers it highly desirable to embark upon a substantial research effort in this field but finds that it does not have adequate funds to do the job on the scale which appears to be indicated. The amount of additional funds seemingly required is in the range of from [REDACTED]. In my conversation with Mr. Jackson, he indicated that CIA is authorized to make a contribution to research efforts of this kind by the State Department, and that we might be willing to consider a contribution of an amount in the neighborhood of [REDACTED]. We also indicated, and I fully agree, that your office should assume the responsibility for backstopping this effort within the CIA.

25X1A1a

25X1A1a

3. The four principal reasons or justifications for the intensive research effort on this subject are set forth below, and it seems to me that the CIA has a definite interest in at least two and probably all of these. The following are the justifications:

a. To provide information and materials for exploitation in the psychological warfare effort (both overt and covert). It is generally agreed that the issue of slave labor is a particularly sensitive vulnerability of the Soviet Union for which they have been able to develop no defense.

b. As a result of the resolution adopted at the March meeting of the Ecosoc in Santiago, there has been created a committee to examine further into the issue of slave labor. This committee possesses the most meager resources of its own and will have to depend upon information and materials provided by the member nations. Hence, the research project would be calculated to produce grist for this Ecosoc mill.

c. The Treasury

c. The Treasury Department is demanding information with respect to the slave labor content of products and materials exported to the United States from the U.S.S.R. There is a provision in our tariff legislation which can and, in the opinion of the Treasury Department, should be invoked to prohibit the importation of products and materials manufactured or produced by slave or convict labor. You may recall that the Treasury placed a ban on the importation of Russian crab meat last year, and that as the result of a refusal on the part of longshoremen in the New England area to handle Russian furs, the Treasury Department became interested in this item as well.

d. There is probably an important intelligence benefit to be derived from such a study, in view of the fact that the creation of new Soviet industrial centers is generally accompanied by or preceded by creation of a nearby complex of slave labor camps. Thus, by tracing the existence and development of concentration camps, indications can be obtained as to the location of important new or as yet undiscovered industrial centers.

4. There is a large volume of unassembled and uncollected information available, the location of much of which is known. There are also hundreds of former inmates of Soviet slave labor and concentration camps from whom information can be elicited. There are numerous books and writings on the subject and various individuals have collections of documents. My office has been interested in this subject for some time, and we are in a position to contribute both information and leads.

5. I should be interested to know how this matter develops and should appreciate your keeping me informed.

D/R-4

25X1A9a

  
Assistant Director for  
Policy Coordination